

tween the species. There is a possibility that *Pinellia ternata* might be of some use as a ground-cover, but the writer would hesitate to plant it in competition with any horticultural treasure. Since the species does not seem to have been adequately illustrated, Miss Purdy has kindly made the accompanying drawing.

BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

TWO PLANTS NEWLY ADVENTIVE IN NORTH AMERICA

E. J. ALEXANDER

Two interesting east Asiatic plants have made their appearance within the last few years in the local area around New York. Since neither has been cultivated in the United States, they are clearly adventives, and show evidence of persisting as newcomers to the flora of North America.

In June of the present year, when the writer was giving a lecture on wild flowers to the Flushing Garden Club, one of the club members, Mrs. Ralph Stoddard, brought up a specimen of a creeping, vine-like plant with dandelion-like flowers which had appeared in her lawn and persisted there several years. No one had ever seen anything like it, nor could they identify the plant. Upon dissection of one of the flower-heads the plant was found to be a species of *Lactuca*. Checking through that genus it was found to be *Lactuca stolonifera* (Gray) Maxim., native in Shantung, the Korean Archipelago and Japan. The habit of the plant is totally unlike our familiar lactucas. It is a delicate creeper, rooting at the nodes and sending up 1-2-flowered peduncles 8-10 cm. tall, the heads about 2.5 cm. across in flower. The leaf-blades are 1-2.5 cm. long, ovate, entire, pale green, glaucous beneath, on long, slender petioles, the entire plant glabrous. The only station so far recorded is in Flushing, N. Y. but the plant may appear elsewhere. A specimen has been deposited in the herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden.¹

The second plant is equally interesting. In July, 1937, Mr. Robert W. Storer sent to the New York Botanical Garden a

¹ *Lactuca stolonifera* was brought to the Gray Herbarium in June, 1939, by Mrs. Stillman P. Williams, as "a pest" in a garden at Media, Pennsylvania.—Eds.

sketch of a strange aroid that was well established in a rhododendron and azalea planting at the railroad station in South Orange, New Jersey. The sketch suggested *Arisaema Dracontium*, but the flowering season was too late and the plant too small, so a specimen was asked for, which Mr. Storer sent in August. The plant was then identified by Mr. Joseph Monachino as *Pinellia ternata* (Thunb.) Breitenb., native of China, Corea and Japan. A second specimen was received later, also from New Jersey, but no record of it was kept. Recently, the writer was shown a weed that had appeared in rhododendron plantings in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. No flowers had been seen on this plant, but it had a strange habit of forming bulbils at the apex of the petiole between the three leaflets and also out of the lower groove of the petiole. A careful comparison of the leaf-venation, and of the petiole and bulbil-structure indicated that this plant was also *Pinellia ternata*, and subsequent flowering confirmed it. This plant has been recorded as an escape in several botanic gardens in Germany, but its source of introduction to this country is a mystery, although it may have come in the form of seed in imported peat-moss. It is possible that further records of it may be obtained by a search of rhododendron plantings in various localities. The flowering period so far recorded is from late June into August. *Pinellia ternata* resembles a miniature Jack-in-the-pulpit when not in flower, but the leaves are closely crisped-undulate on the margin. The flower-structure is very different. The spathe is slender, the base of the spadix adnate to it on the dorsal side, with pistillate flowers only on the free side, the spathe then constricted for a short distance, the spadix bearing staminate flowers on all sides above the constriction and terminating in a long-tapering, purple and green tail. The plant, however, may be recognized at any time by the several-scaled, red-streaked bulbils between the leaflets and on the petioles.

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN